



Prairie

Oglala, Buffalo Gap & Ft. Pierre National Grasslands

Postings

Issue 3

October 2010

Partnerships—Working Together to Manage Public Grasslands—October 2010

This month we're pleased to take the next collaboration steps in the field to hear new research results, and spend time on the ground looking at grassland conditions together with our stakeholders. Please join us at one or both of the collaboration meetings in Crawford, NE or near Scenic, SD in October.

For over a year we've been discussing collaborative opportunities for stakeholders on the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands, (NNF&G), to pursue a collective focus on desired grassland resource conditions, while striving to improve working relationships. Our optimism remains strong that mutual agreements may be possible across stakeholder interests.

Jane Darnell, Supervisor & Steve Lenzo, Deputy Supervisor

PLEASE JOIN THE GRASSLAND PARTNERSHIPS MEETINGS!

Pine Ridge Ranger District Invites Partners to *The Ranch House* in Crawford, NE on October 19th

(Chadron, NE) The Pine Ridge Ranger District looks forward to working with all partners to plan and design a cooperative grassland monitoring system, as it relates to black-tailed prairie dog management. Similarity index monitoring, research



and rangeland vegetation recovery within prairie dog colonies will be considered to develop the group's ongoing monitoring plan. The group will meet Oct. 19th from 9 AM—Noon

at the Ranch House in Crawford. A field trip will begin at 1 PM travel to a prairie dog town on the Oglala National Grasslands. *Contact Info: Lora O'Rourke, Acting District Ranger (308) 432-0300*

Ft. Pierre Ranger District, Pierre, SD

Prairie Dog Trapping to Begin

(Ft. Pierre, SD) This fall the Fort Pierre National Grassland plans to live trap two colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs over approximately 7 acres, and transport them to the Ted Turner Bad River Ranches. Both dog towns have adjacent private land owners that complained of colony encroachment through the State of South Dakota in 2010. In concurrence with the USDA Forest Service Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management on the NNF&G plan signed in August of 2005, the decision was made to use non-lethal methods to resolve both complaints. *Contact Info: Ruben Leal, District Ranger (605) 224-5517*



Oglala, Buffalo Gap & Ft. Pierre



National Grasslands

125 N. Main Street
Chadron, NE 69337

Attach address label here



Buffalo Gap Grasslands Meeting near Scenic, SD on October 20th

Similarity Index Monitors in Prairie Dog Towns on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands

(Hot Springs & Wall, SD) Personnel from the Wall and Fall River Ranger Districts, the Rocky Mountain Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service, are planning to meet with ranchers running livestock under permit on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and conservation groups on a joint vegetation monitoring effort. This effort will identify opportunities that will help with management of forest service allotments being grazed by permitted livestock that also provide habitat for black-tailed prairie dog and black-footed ferrets. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the use of Similarity Indices as a monitoring tool on prairie dog towns.



The presentation will be led by Dr. Jack Butler who is a researcher with Rocky Mountain Research Station, in Rapid City, SD. Dr. Butler will present his current research results of using Similarity Index measures, as described by the Natural Resource Conservation Services, to characterize and monitor vegetation on prairie dog towns.

The District offices will begin contacting interested parties to make arrangements for the Oct. 20th field meeting. You may also call the offices for specific directions and a meeting agenda.

Contact Info: Mike McNeill, Fall River District Ranger, 605-747-4107 or John Kinney, Wall District Ranger, 605-279-2125.

